A Pillar of Gratitude.

OR,

A brief Recapitulation, of the Matchless Favours, with which the God of Heaven hath obliged the HEARTY PRAISES, of His New-English ISRAEL.

A SERMON deliverd in the Audience of His EXCELLENCY, the Earl of BELLOMONT, Captain General, and GOVERNOUR in Chief, and of the COUNCIL, & Representatives, of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Province of the *Massachusetts Bay*, Convened at *Boston*, in *New England*. On *May* 29 1700 the Day for Election of *Counsellors*, in that Province.

By *COTTON MATHER*

Whereto there is *Appendicted*, an Extract of some Accounts, concerning the Wonderful Success of the Glorious Gospel, in the *East Indies*.

Nemo non hæc vera dicit.

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A Pillar of Gratitude.

At the Opening of the Great and General Aſſembly, of the Province of *Maſſachuſet Bay, New England.*

29 *d.* 3 *m.* 1700.

Pſal. CXLVII. 20.
He hath not ſo dealt with any Nation!

THere was a people, of whom the God of Heaven ſaid, *This people have I formed for my ſelf, they ſhall ſhew forth my praiſe.* And if there be ſuch a people any where under the Cope of Heaven at this Day, 'tis in the *Engliſh Nation.* But of the *Engliſh Nation*, certainly there is no Colony, or Plantation that hath more cauſe to

Shew forth the praiſe of the Almighty, than that which is now and here Convened. What more agreeable or profitable *Addreſs*, can be made, unto a *Great and General Aſſembly* of this Province, than an Inviration to the *Praiſes* of our Good God, who as *He is worthy to be praiſed*, ſo, Deſires to *Inhabit our Praiſes*, and reckons Himſelf *Glorified*, when we *Offer* them? The *Royal Charter* of our *King*, has made this, *A Day of Election*, for no ſmall part of our *Government*: And though the *Civil Affairs* now to be attended, will not allow this to be, *A Day of Thankſgiving*, Yet no Thoughts were more proper for a people rejoycing under the *Protection* of ſuch a *Government*, than thoſe which would well become, *A Day of Thankſgiving*. Indeed, that *Angel*, who *Flew thro the midſt of Heaven, ſaying, with a loud voice, Fear God, and give Glory to him*, would not be able fully to let off the *Glory* due to our God, for His matchleſs *Favours* unto us: But inſtead thereof a poor, ſhallow, ſinful *Mortal*, muſt come to you, with this Meſſage, *Praiſe God, and Give Glory to Him*! And yet it will be a *Melody* unto the very

Angels

Angels of Heaven, to hear *Mortals* on Earth, Singing and Shouting forth, *Glory to God in the Highest, for His Good Will towards men!*

A people there has been, of whom that Account may be given, *O Lord, Thou hast brought a Vine, thou hast cast out the Heathen, and planted it: Thou didst cause it to take deep Root, and it filled the Land: She sent out her Boughs unto the Sea, and her Branches unto the River.* My Hearers all this while know not, whether I am giving an Account of *Old Israel*, or of *New-England*: So Surprizing has been the *Parallel*!

The *Matchless Favours* of God unto *Old Israel*, are here Celebrated in one of the *Hallelujatic Psalms*; and a *Psalm* on such a Subject, very fitly, both begins and concludes with, *Hallelujah*! The *Epiphonema*, which crowns all, is this, *He hath not so dealt with any Nation; Praise ye the Lord.* It gives us this *Instruction*, That when the Blessed God Endows a people with *Matchless Favours*, it becomes that people to bless Him with *Hearty Praises*. This is an *Instruction*, so plain, so evident, and so practical, there needs

no operation thereupon, to prepare it, for its *Application* unto our ſelves. The *Matchleſs Favours* of God unto *New-England* are now to be ſet before you, in a *Short Catalogue* of them: I ſay, a *Short* one, for who can in a piece of an Hour, Compoſe a *Full* one, or one that ſhall not fall *ſhort* in many Inſtances? Beholding ſo much of *New-England*, from every Quarter, under ſuch Characters, here come together, I ſhall take this opportunity, to beſpeak your *Hearty Praiſes* to the Almighty God, for *So Dealing with* New-England *as not with any Nation*. And I have now choſen a Subject, that one would think ſhould be of all, the leaſt liable to Cavilling Objections, and Exceptions. For, if any man ſhall object unto any one *Article*, in all my *Catalogue We owe no Hearty Praiſes to God upon that Article*, give me leave to ſay it, It ſhall be an *Hyperbole* of *Ingratitude*; and, That man ſhall be a *prodigy* of *Profanity*, and *Stupidity*.

But I cannot introduce the *Catalogue* of the *Matchleſs Favours*, wherein our God *hath ſo dealt with us, as not with any Nation*. Until you have had ſome Re-

mark

marks upon the Nature, and Meanings, and Ingredients of those *Hearty Praises*, which we are to render unto the Almighty for His *Matchless Favours*.

You will Remember then, That in our *Hearty Praises* of God, for His *Matchless Favours*, we are to Confess, to Admire, to Adore those *Glories* of God which are Conspicuous and Illustrious in His *Favours*. The *Power*, the *Wisdom*, the *Mercy*, and the *Faithfulness* of the Great God, gloriously *Shine forth* in His *Dealings so with us, as not with any Nation*. The *Glories* of God, that His *Dealings*, do testifie and certifie, and signalize unto us, *These* we must very distinctly *Sound forth*, with *His High Praises in our mouth*.

But then, you will also Remember, that we are utterly *unworthy* of those *Matchless Favours*, for which we offer up unto God our *Hearty Praises*. When we Reflect on the *Dealings* of our God with us, we fearfully add unto our own *unworthiness*, if we don't sensibly say with our Father *Jacob*, *Lord, we are not worthy of the Least of all these Mercies*. Truly, 'tis not because we are better than any *other Nation*, that our God hath *so dealt with*

us, as not with any Nation. We are more *vile* than every *other Nation*, if we don't own our ſelves *as vile*, as *any Nation*. When God had *ſo dealt* with His people of old, as *not with any Nation*, He, to retund and confound the *vain Thoughts* of *pride* in them, told them, Deut. 7. 7, 8. *The Lord did not ſet his Love upon you, becauſe ye were more in Number than any people, (for ye were the feweſt of all people) but becauſe the Lord Loved you.* Such an *Idem per Idem*, is very good ſenſe, in the Language of *Soveraign Grace*; *The Lord Loved you, meerly becauſe He Loved you!* Even ſo; 'Tis the meer *Soveraign Grace* of the God, *who does all things according to the Counſel of his own Will*, that hath *ſo Dealt with the Engliſh Nation as not with any Nation.* Our Anceſtors were as forlorn, wretched, rueful Pagans, as our *Indians*; and there are now the ſame Sins in our *Nation* that there are in the more *Enſlaved Neighbours*, that are under the Houſes of *Bourbon*, or of *Auſtria*. Why has the Lord *ſo Dealt* with thee, O *New-England, as not with any Nation!* The very *Hottentots* of *Africa*, and *Canibals* on *Florida*, are a *Nation* as worthy of the Divine

Bounties

ties as thou art; and thou hast *Sins* enough to bring upon thee as many plagues and woes as the *Greek Churches* themſelves are Languiſhing under. But, *It is even ſo, O our Heavenly Father, meetly becauſe it pleaſes thee!*

Finally; You will Remember, That we don't offer up *Hearty Praiſes* unto God, for His *Marchleſs Favours*, if they be not *Active Praiſes*. When we Reflect on the *Dealings* of our God, with us, there is that ingenuous Queſtion to be thought upon; *Pſal.* 116. 12. *What ſhall we render to the Lord for all His Benefits!* Hath our God *ſo dealt with us, as not with any Nation*? We are then to ſtudy for *Returns* of *Gratitude*, and *Obedience*, wherein we ſhall exceed every *other Nation*. 'Tis not a formal ſaying, *Thanks be to God!* that will ſerve to Expreſs our *Thanks* unto Him, for *ſo dealing with us, as not with any Nation*. 'Tis *Thanks doing*, and *Thanks living*, that muſt Expreſs our *Thanks*. Without ſome agreeable *Fruitfulneſs* in our Converſations, we have no True *Thankfulneſs*. We are then to think, *What are the Fruits now Expected from a Nation, with whom God hath ſo dealt as*

not

not with any Nation? What muſt be our *Fruitfulneſs*, that we may ſtill *Enjoy*, and not *Forfeit* the *Bounties* of God?

But let us now proceed unto the *Matchleſs Favours* of thy God unto thee, O *New England*, which call for ſuch *Hearty Praiſes*.

And here, concerning the Conſtitution, of the *Country* it ſelf, where *the Moſt High hath divided unto us our Inheritance*, I will not ſay, God hath *ſo dealt with us, as not with any Nation*; But this I may ſay, There is many a *Nation* that is not near ſo well accommodated. Of the *Land* where our Lott falls unto us, our Good God may ſay, as in Ezek. 20. 6. *It is a Land that I had Eſpied for them.* And, tho' it be not, *The Glory of all Lands*, yet *Engliſhmen* could not have met with many better *Lands*. Deſervedly is it called, *New England*; for *England*, that braveſt Lady of *Europe*, has no where in *America*, a Daughter that ſo much Reſembles her. The *Comforts* of the *Climate*, abundantly outweigh the *Hardſhips* of it. The *Poor* find a more comfortable Subſiſtence in it, than almoſt in any other. Almoſt every where elſe the *Poor* do rather *Endure*

dure Life, than *Enjoy* it. But the *Poor* of this Land, may ſay, *God hath not ſo dealt with the reſt of the poor in our Nation, or ſcarce in any Nation.* And where the Inhabitants of it uſe *Diſcretion* and *Induſtry*, they moſtly furniſh themſelves, not only with *Neceſſaries*, but alſo with *Conveniencies.* Indeed *New England* is not *Heaven*: *That* we are ſure of! But for my part, I do not ask to Remove out of *New-England*, except for a Removal into *Heaven.* 'Tis true, ſome Troubles, but thoſe rather in the *Moral*, than the *Natural* Circumſtances of the Country, have often cauſed our moſt Eminent *Elijahs*, to wiſh, *Oh! If they had the wings of a Dove, whither would they flee away!* And, Whither, Syrs, I beſeech you? I doubt, you don't know the *World.* Certainly, you'l find it *Old Adams World*, go where you will. There grow *Briars* & *Thorns*, in other parts of the World, as well as *New-England.* But, O Good people of *New England*, Tho' you are by the *Royal Charter*, delivered from the Extortions of thoſe that once demanded of you, *Quitrents* for all the *Good Land* unto the poſſeſſion whereof your *Titles* are now Confirm-

Confirmed, yet Hear now thy Great Landlord, calling for *His Quitrents*, in those terms, Deut. 8 10, 11. *When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God, for the Good Land, which he hath given thee; Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God in not keeping His Commandments.*

But let us pass on to those *Favours* of Heaven, that are more *Distinguishing*, & *Considerable*, and without which, the best Countreys in the World, would be as undesirable as *Italy* it self: A Country that is the *Garden* of the World, and yet an *Hell upon Earth*.

Now, First, Let not the *Method* be charged with any *Rudeness*, if Religion take the *first place*, in our Enumeration of those *Matchless Favours*, wherewith our God hath obliged us infinitely. This, This was the grand point wherein the *Israelites* of old, were the *Favourites* of Heaven. *The Lord shewed his words*, [*i.e.* the Ten Commandments of the Moral Law] *unto Jacob, his Statutes* (or the Ceremonial Law) *and His Judgments* (or the Judicial Law) *unto Israel*: And *Then* it follows, *He hath not so dealt with*

any

any Nation; Praiſe ye the Lord. God in *favouring* us (and the *Engliſh Nation,*) with the Knowledge of the *Chriſtian,* and the *Proteſtant Religion,* hath *ſo dealt with us as not with any Nation.* As it was ſaid, *Pſal.* 148. 14. *He Exalteth the Horn of His People, even of the Children of Iſrael, a people near unto Him.* When God makes a forlorn Race of *Gentiles,* to become his *Iſrael,* and by His Holy *Religion* brings them *near unto Him,* it becomes them to *Exalt the Horn,* that is to ſay, to utter His *Praiſes* with *Higher Notes* than ordinary. 'Tis done for the *Engliſh Nation,* and very ſingularly done for thee, O *New Engliſh Iſrael.* How much ought we to *Praiſe the Lord,* for that *Religion,* which alone teaches us how to *Praiſe the Lord!* When the Herald of the King of *Spain,* proclaimed the Greatneſs of his Maſter, by more than *Forty* ſeveral Titles, the Herald of the King of *France,* as often repeated that one Title, *The King of France, France, France!* Intimating, that this *One,* was more than all the *other.* This I will ſay, Tell me not of more than *Forty* Bleſſings and Staples and Pleaſures of other Countreys. My *New England* has

one Thing that will weigh down more than *Forty* of the beſt things that other Countreys can brag of; That is, *Religion, Religion, Religion!* The *Chriſtian Religion*, is indeed a *Matchleſs Favour* of Heaven to them that have it *Revealed*, and publiſhed among them. By this *Religion* men are *Lifted up to Heaven*, and have *Heaven* comi g down to *them*. We have the *Goſpel* of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, which is moſt juſtly called, *The Glorious Goſpel of God*: And this *Goſpel* will make a *Glorious People*: But, O *Goſpellized People*, then *Glorify God*! They are moſt *Noble Myſteries* that the *Goſpel* of the *Chriſtian Religion*, does Enrich us withal, and they are moſt *Noble Directions* with which it counſils us. O *New-Englanders*, While you have a Bible in your Habitations you *Eat Angels Food*! A man that *Feeds* and *Lives* upon the principles of this *Religion*, is a *Noble Creature*, and a *Candidate* of the *Angelical Life*. The *Regions* that have not our *Goſpel*, are the *Regions that Sit in Darkneſs*, and in the *Valley of the Shadow of Death* If we receive this *Goſpel* of the *Chriſtian Religion*, in the *Love of it*, it will infallibly bring us to

Everlaſting

Everlasting Bleſſedneſs. If this our *Goſpel be Hid*, it is *Hid unto them that be loſt*. The Strangers to this *Religion*, are *Without God in the World*, and *without Hope* of Bleſſedneſs in another World. The Lands that have not our *Goſpel*, what are they, but the *Habitations of Devils*, and all the year long, in a more lamentable plight, than the furtheſt and frozen Regions of the *North*, which have *all Night* for many months together? In the *Goſpel* of our *Chriſtian Religion*, we have, in one word, A CHRIST, A CHRIST, in whom our *Hungry Souls* have the *Bread of Life*, and in whom our *Thirſty Souls* have the *Water of Life*: and our *Naked Souls*, the Splendid *Garments of Salvation*. Out of Heaven, hath, *God, the perfection of Beauty ſhone upon* us. Our CHRIST, He is the *Way*; without Him, we were *Vagabonds*, and *going aſtray in the greatneſs of our Folly*; He is the *Truth*; without Him, we are a prey to the *Father of Lies*, and our *Deceived Heart* can't be Sav'd from a *Lye in our Right Hand*: He is the *Life*; without Him, we are *Dead in Treſpaſſes and Sins*. Bleſſed JESUS, *'Twere better we ſhould not be at all, than be without*

Thee! But, that brig t *Sun of Righteouſneſs*, hath darted His *Healing Beams* down upon thee, *O New England*; when ſo many millions of men, are left unenlightened. Above half the Children of men, I ſuppoſe, are *Idolaters* to this Day; and almoſt a *Quarter*, if I miſtake not, are *Mahometans*.

Aſtoniſh'd at the *Matchleſs Favour* of God, that has made us *Chriſtians*, Let us Employ our Pitty, and Prayer, & Care, for thoſe that are Expoſed unto *Deſtruction* every day, by their *Lack* of our *Knowledge*. Bleſſed be God, that has Crown'd the Labours of His *Dutch Miniſters* in the *Eaſt Indies* of late years, with ſuch rare Succeſſes, that Hundreds of Thouſands of the Natives, are Converted from their *Idolatry*, and their *Mahometaniſm*, & are *Baptiſ'd* into the Name of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. *Strike on, O Arm of the Lord*! What we have done, for the *Evangelizing* of our *Indians*, has been as great an Honour to *New England*, as any that ever befel it. The like Honour in ſome regards, has not befallen *any Nation*; *Praiſe ye the Lord*! I vehemently beſeech you, Let not that *Evangelical Work* now

now come to *nothing*. Rescue it from the Decayes, and Choak weeds which do Threaten it; and see whether we can't extend it even unto the *Five Nations* of the *West*, as well as that in the *East*. If they be not by our means made *Christians*, we can tell who will use all means to make them, *twofold more Children of Hell*, than they are already.

Well, but when our God has granted us the *Christian Religion*, there is a *Second Flight* that our Thoughts are to make, into the *State of the Case* which renders it a *Matchless Favour* of God; And this is, That it is *Truly Christian*. Two Hundred years ago, were the *Dark Times* of the *Romish Apostasy*, Wherein *Satan*, by his *Vicar* and *Viceroy* at *Rome* rendred a very *Gehinnom*, that which was called *Christendom*. The *Unsearchable Judgments* of God, gave up all *Europe*, unto the *Chains of Darkness*, which *Popery*, that is but a *Disguised*, and *Revived Paganism* laid upon it: Except here and there some *Witnesses in Sackcloth*, which by barbarous *Croisades*, & Cruelties against them, were made *Sheep for the slaughter all the day long*. But about one hundred and four-

ſcore years ago, God Showred a *Spirit* of *Reformation*, upon the *Nations* of *Europe*; and *Antichriſt* Loſt *Half* his Empire. God in ſome things then dealt with our *Engliſh Nation*, as not *with any Nation*: For the Myſtical *Jericho* being then demoliſhed before the Evangelical Shouts of the *Reformation* in *England*, the *Curſe* of our Bleſſed JESUS, hath ever ſince in a ſtupendous manner fallen on the Heads of all that have gone to *Rebuild* it, and blaſted all their Enterprizes. And God hath Raiſed up a *Golden Generation* of men in the *Engliſh Nation*, who notwithſtanding many diſcouragements and diſadvantages, from the Maſquerading Adverſaries of the *Reformation*, as they have kept the *Lords Day* more ſtrictly, ſo, for all the other ſtrictneſs of *Manly Chriſtianity*, and for the *Power of Godlineſs*, and for mighty Elevations of *Holineſs*, have none to equal them (or not many, I am ſure) among the Sons of *Adam*.

'Tis no *Small* Thing that God has done for our *Engliſh Nation*, in delivering it from the *Political Miſchiefs of Popery*, under which the Nations yet *Intoxicated*

with

with the *Popish Abominations* are pining away. The *Protestant Religion* hath not been set up scarce in *any Nation*, but it has made them, even in Temporals, within a very little while, twice as *Rich* and as *Great* as they were before; And one, somewhat curious in his Calculations, has demonstrated, That the Abolishing of *Popery*, in the *English Nation*, is worth at least Eight Millions of Pounds Sterling, yearly profit unto it. But, this is a *Small* Thing, in comparison of what has been done by God for the *English Nation*, in its Deliverance, from the *Spiritual Mischiefs of Popery*. For 'tis peculiarly concerning the *Roman Catholicks*, that the Spirit of God uttered that Oracle, in 2 Thes. 2. 11, 12. *God shall send them strong Delusion, that they should Believe a lie, that they all might be Damned, who Believed not the Truth.* *Praises*, where are you? Let Heaven ring with our *Praises* unto our God, for the *Religion* of *England*. Praised be God, That the *Treasures* of His Blessed *Word* are not lock'd up from us! That we are not *Priest ridden* by the *Janizaries* of *Antichrist*! That we have not *Non sensical Figments*, thrust down our Throats,

with

with Burning Fire brands! That we may use our own *Discretion* in the concerns of our own *Salvation*! That we are not by bloody Inquisitions, or Dragoonings, or Faggots, and Gibbets, driven to worship the *Works of mens Hands!* Truly, There are *many Nations*, that are not so *Dealt* withal. But you, O dear People of *New-England*, have your Share in this amazing Deliverance.

Astonish'd at the *Matchless Favour* of God, which has made us *Protestants*, Let us put on all Bowels of *Charity*, for our Brethren, that are *Confessors*, and *Refugees*, for the *cause of God* Let us annex the *Cries* of our *Prayers*, unto the *Cries* of the *Souls under the Altar*, for a speedy and rapid *Thunder storm*, upon those, who have the Cry of all the *Righteous Blood* that has been *Shed* from to the *Blood of Abel*, to the Blood *of* Brousson, whom they lately broke upon the *Wheel*, going up to God against them: *Ut convertantur, ne pereant, aut confundantur ne noceant.* Yea, But more than all his; Let us feel the *Efficacy* of our *Holy Religion*, upon our own Hearts, and Lives; Let us *Live* up to the *Maxims* of our *Holy Religion*, and

Love

Live under the awful and joyful *Force* thereof. Otherwise a provoked God, may put us upon Severe *Trials*, to preserve it: but if we have not had the *Holy Relish* of it, we shall, when we are *Tried*, soon give it away.

But are there no *Specialties* of *Religion*, in which *New England* hath received the *Matchless Favours* of God, even beyond the rest of the *English Nation*. This is a *Third Flight*, that we are now to take in the *Praises* of God. I am not indeed so inconsiderate, as to *boast* of my Country: and, Ah, *New England*, thou hast enough and enough to *Humble* thee. Yea, I will readily grant, That in one City of the *English Nation* (I mean, the *Capital*) there is a greater Number of *Pious People*, than in all this whole Province. And I am not so Absurd & Morose and Little, as to *dream*, that there are no *Pious People*, but what are in lesser points of my own perswasion. But the *Favours* of God must not be denyed.

Our Degeneracies are horrible: they Expose us to the Dreadful Wrath of the Lord, who when Churches *Leave their first Love*, doe *Quickly come* forth against them,

them, with Horrible Desolations. Nevertheless, As they tell me, That the *Peasants* in most other Countreyes are meer Bruits to what they are in *England*: I suppose, *Ours* are not worse than *Englands*. Yea, I have heard unprejudiced strangers own, That there is yet left proportionably more of *Piety* in this Land, and the *Common people* are for the most part, better instructed, than in any that they know of under Heaven. And I hope they will have cause to say, that they see more *Honesty* too; or Else the *Piety* is worth nothing at all. He that is but a *Publican* at the Second *Table*, is but a *Pharisee*, as to the First. *Modesty* forbids me, to say *much* of This; though I wish I could say *More*; and, *Comparisons* are *Odious*.

But there are some further *Specialities*.

The *Doctrinal Articles* of the *Church of England*, through the *Matchless Favour* of God, are more universally Held, & Preach'd in the Churches of *New-England*, than in *any Nation*, and far more than in our own. It is more than I know, That there is *One Socinian* in all the Cnuntrey; And among all the *Pastors* of *our Churches*, I do not know that there is one *Arminian*. The

pure

pure Doctrines of Grace, which are a *Match-less Favour* of God unto the *Churches* that have them, are the *paſſant*, and *publick* Doctrines of the Countrey. Yea, The *Neonomian*, and the *Antinomian* Errors, about that Great Point, of, *A Sinners Juſtification before God*, which have bred ſuch a Scandalous Contention, among the *Non Conformiſts* beyond Sea, have not yet Straggled over the *Atlantic*, among this people of God. The two *Covenants*, that of *Works*, and that of *Grace*, are not here ſo confounded, as in many other places. *The Everlaſting Goſpel*, is here Preach'd with Purity, more univerſally, than in *any Nation*. *God hath not ſo dealt with any Nation*; *Praiſe ye the Lord*! We don't pretend here, that we have taught our Neighbours, *The whole Duty of man*, when we have Left out the *Main Duty* of all. And give me leave to ſay, There is CHRIST Preach'd in thy Churches, O *New England*; and the *Shout of that King is heard in the midſt of thee*. I hope, there is nothing of *Religion* among us, but ordinarily you ſhall hear ſomething of CHRIST in it, before you have done, and you have the *Truth as it is in Jeſus*.

Our

Our Preachers don't value their *Sermons*, upon being as *Austin* complain'd, the Writings of *Tully* were, *Without so much as the Name of CHRIST in them*: and would not have you be like those whom the writings of the Ancients do brand, *sine Christo Christiani*. A *Nation* full of Preachers, that will contrive to make Harangues upon *Moral Vertues*, but banish CHRIST as much as they can out of all their *Treatising*, must needs be very obnoxious to the Resentments of Heaven: I will say with *Luther*, *Quicquid Oratur, Docetur, Vivitur extra Christum, est Idololatria coram Deo, et peccatum.* Yea, to use the Expression of an Excellent person, *If I were in a Church full of Kings, I would say so!* But God has not *so dealt with this our little Nation.* How will you now *Praise God* for this *Matchless Favour?* How? But by prizing of His CHRIST, and loving of His CHRIST, and yielding all possible Obedience to the CHRIST who is the *Author of Eternal Salvation, to as many as Obey Him.* I'l drive that Nail with one stroke of History. There had been much of CHRIST, at *Capernaum* of old: A CHRIST was a Resident at

Caper-

Capernaum. Yea, but our CHRIST was grievously undervalued there; and therefore our Lord fore-told, *Mat.* 11. 23. *Thou shalt be brought down to Hell.* Now I find in the Jewish *Talmuds*, that *Capernaum* after this given up to the most *Hellish Wickedness* that ever was: The Town of *Capernaum*, was a meer *Sodom*, and *Hell* above ground. There was not a more *Hellish* place for Filthiness, and Sorcery, on the Face of the Earth. Oh, Consider of it!

Moreover, Is it not a *Matchless Favour* to Sit under the *Wings* of *Churches*, wherein the *Primitive Discipline* is *Restored*: Even the *Discipline*, that *Cranmer*, and *Hooper*, and other Great *Lights* of the *Church of England*, wish'd for, and wrote for, & would gladly have *Dy'd* for? A *Discipline* wherein all Things are Conformed, as well as we can understand, unto the Word of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, & wherein the *Elders* have their *Authority* upheld, the *Brethren* have not their *Liberties* over laid, and all things Conspire to Represent the *Holiness* of the *Kingdom of Heaven* unto the World; it is a *Matchless Favour* of Heaven, to the *Nation* that is

Illuminated with it. In whatſoever we may want of *this*, may the *Great Shepherd of the Sheep* lead us, and make our *Works perfect* before Him. In whatſoever we have attained of it, it will be a very ſad *unhappineſs*, for any man to be ſo Left of God, as to be the *Inſtrument* of Diſcomposing it: it were better to *Dy*, than come under that *unhappineſs*. God grant we may hear that, which they tell us, was one of the *Songs*, at the *Feaſt of Tabernacles*, *Bleſſed be our Youth, that have not made our Old men Aſhamed.*

But is it not a *Matchleſs Favour* of our God unto us, that for the Propagation of *Religion* and *Civility* among us, there has been a COLLEDGE Erected in theſe *Ends of the Earth*? Truly, God hath not *ſo dealt with* any Out-goings of *our Nation!* Had it not been for ſuch *Miniſters* as have Shone in moſt of our Towns, the *Wild Beaſts of the Deſart*, in a little while would have *Lien there*, *the Houſes would* moſtly have been *full of doleful Creatures*, and *Owles* would *have dwelt there*. A Learned and a Godly *Miniſtry*, hath been the *Matchleſs Favour* of God unto *New-England*: Men of whom that Account might

might be given, which the Great *Cranmer*, in his Memoirs gave of one, for whom he design'd preferment, *Nihil appetit, nihil ardet, nihil somniat, nisi Jesum Christum*; Men, of whom it might be said, as it was of a certain Scotch Divine, *That he did Eat and Drink, and Sleep the Kingdom of Heaven*: Men that have been *Timothies* in their Houses, *Chrysostomes* in their Pulpits, and *Augustines* in their Disputations. *Impostors* have but seldome got in, and set up among us; and when they have done so, they have made but a *Short Blaze*, and *Gone out in a Snuff*; and some Hand or other, hath done such a Service for the Lord Jesus Christ, as to *Scourge the Thieves out of the Temple*. But *Ministers* that have been *Pastors after the Heart of God*, these have still *Flourished like a Green Olive tree in the House of God*, and have been the means for their people to *flourish* with them. If any undervalue this *Matchless Favour* of God, I will mind them of a Speech used by the Lord *Burleigh*, when he heard some undervaluing the Ministers of the Gospel; *Well, God Bless them, by whom God Blesseth us!* This could not easily have been, if it had

not been for the *Seminary* of *Good Letters* and of *Good Manners*; for which our God may ſay unto us, as unto His *Iſrael*, *I Raiſed up of your Sons for Prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites: Is it not even thus, O ye Children of* New England? The Reverend *Chauncey*, once Præſident of our *Colledge*, publiſhed a Sermon on thoſe words of the Prophet, wherein he has a line or two, not improper now to be Repeated. Saies he, 'This Great 'Bleſſing is not regarded by *Covetous* 'Earthworms, and many make wicked 'Returns for the Bleſſing, and ſeek to 'pull down *Schools of Learning*. How 'hateful unto the Lord is this *Unthankful-* 'neſs? *Do ye thus requite the Lord, ye fooliſh people and unwiſe?* Thus the Renowned Old man Exclaimed in *his Day*. All that I ſhall add *this Day* upon it is, That except we do immediately ask and take the Advice of our Excellent GOVERNOUR, for the obtaining of a Good Eſtabliſhment of this our *Colledge*, it is much to be fear'd it will preſently be broken up; Without his Direction and Countenance we can do nothing to purpoſe; & it is a *Matchleſs Favour* of God

that

that we may have it. If meerly thro' our *Neglect*, an *Ominous Ruine* come now upon our Colledge, monſtrous, and ſhameful, and ſenſeleſs will be our *Unthankfulneſs* unto God, who hath *ſo Dealt* with us, as not with *Every Nation*; and they that wiſh well unto *New England* will ſay, *Surely no other Nation would have been ſuch* Felones de ſe, *or have dealt ſo by its own greateſt Intereſt!*

But, if we now make our Tranſition in the *Second place*, unto our **Civil State**, We ſhall therein ſee much of That which hath ſecured unto us, the Enjoyment of our *Holy Religion*, and find our ſelves further followed with the *Matchleſs Favours* of our God. When we look either upon our *Subſiſtence* heretofore and hitherto, or upon the *Government* under which we do now Subſiſt, *New England* may be Saluted by the *Angels*, whom the moſt High God has uſed in conveying theſe His *Favours* unto us, as in Luk 1.28 *Hail thou that art Highly Favoured, the Lord is with thee!*

Though I am not, nor has our Province any one that is, He, who in the *Venetian* Common wealth is called, *The*

Divine of the State; Yet I may ſo far take notice of what Occurs in our *Civil State*, as to ſay:

Firſt, Our *Subſiſtence*, It has been almoſt by *Miracle*: Our God has *not ſo dealt with any Nation.* How ſtrangely was the Settlement of *New England* at firſt brought forward, and at laſt brought about; When God *brought a Nation out of the midſt of a Nation!* There were ſome Occurrences in that Thing, which would make that Challenge not unreaſonable, Deut. 4. 32. *Ask now of the Dayes that are paſt, which were before thee, ſince the Day that God Created man upon the Earth, and ask from the one ſide of Heaven unto the other, whether there have been any ſuch thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?* And ever ſince the Settlement, how ſtrangely have we been Relieved, Supported, Supplied in our frequent, and frightful Exigencies? We have often been in very ſore *Diſtreſſes*; but being Diſtreſs'd, *This poor people has cried unto the Lord, who hath heard and ſav'd*, with moſt ſeaſonable and unexpected Salvations. Hath God *ſo dealt with every Nation?* Truly No! I muſt ſay unto you, as in Deut.

Deut. 4. 7. *What Nation is there, that hath God so Nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things, that we call upon him for?* There have been formidable Attempts of Satan and his Sons, to *Unsettle* us: But what an overwhelming *Blast* from Heaven has, defeated all those Attempts? And very particularly, When the *Caroline Persecution* so raged against our Brethren in the English Nation, That a late Writer affirms, *More were then Starv'd, or otherwise Dy'd in noisome Prisons than what I care to mention*; We felt nothing of it; but were so *dealt withal*, as not at that very Time our Brethren in *our Nation*. Besides, and after, a vast number of *Ebenezers*, Erected by *New-England* upon all its various Interests, whole *Nations* of Salvages from one end of the Land unto the other, took up Arms against us. But the *Sword of God*, in one years time, cut off those Nations: for, O *New England*, Thou didst *not get the Land in possession, by thy own Sword, neither did thine own Arm Save thee.* At length it was proposed, *That a Colony of Irish might be sent over, to check the growth of this Countrey*: An *Happy Revolution* spoil'd *that Plot*:

and

and many an one of more general conſequence than *That*! But the *Tribulation for Ten Dayes*, which we then had, in a variety of *Calamities*, afforded us a vaſt variety of *Experiences*, upon which we might ſet up our further *Ebenezers*. Eſcaped *New-England*, may with exceeding Wonderment, cry out, *Having obtained Help from God, I continue to this Day*! The Ancient Hiſtorian could ſay, *Nunquam majori Triumpho vicimus, quam cum Decem Annorum ſtrage vinci non potuimus*: Thus may we ſay, 'Twas a *Matchleſs Favour* of our God unto us, that when this *Little Veſſel* was in a direful *Storm* for *Ten years* together, it has after all out liv'd the *Storm*. And I may add hereupon, though we drank Deep of the *Cup of Trembling*, which the Hand of God carried about unto the *Nations* in the Late *War*; yet there were ſeveral Merciful Diſpenſations of Heaven, wherein God *ſo dealt with us, as not with any Nation*.

But then, Secondly, In the *Government* Set over us, we may and muſt ſay it, *Our God has done Great Things for us*!

It is no Little Bleſſing of God, that we

we are a part of the *Engliſh Nation*. Our Dependence on, and Relation to, that brave *Nation*, that man deſerves not the Name of an *Engliſh man*, who deſpiſes it. There is no *Engliſh man* but what has for his *Birthright* thoſe *Liberties*, which are a rich *Inheritance*: When all the *Nations* of the *Northern Europe*, of late years fooliſhly Loſt their *Liberties*, the brave *Engliſh*, (tho' with ſtruggle enough, againſt the *Unnatural Conſpiracies* of the *Late Reigns*) have ſtill preſerved *Theirs*: They are none but the Sons of *Edom*, that undervalue thoſe *Liberties*: and who do not ſee, that God *hath not ſo dealt with any Nation*.

And if it be a *Matcheleſs Favour* of our God unto us, that we have our claim to *Engliſh Liberties*, (though our *Task maſters* Twelve years ago, told us we had *None!*) Let us not be inſenſible of His *Matcheleſs Favour* unto us, (for it is *Now ſo* !) that we have a claim to the KING of *England*, as having theſe Dominions alſo under His Auſpicious Influences.

GOD, by a wondrous *Revolution* hath brought unto the Throne of *Three Kingdoms*,

doms, by the Voice of all the good people therein, a KING, whoſe *Royal Vertues* are ſuch, that we may truly ſay, *God hath not ſo dealt with any Nation*: As the *Engliſh Nation* is the moſt Glorious of any under Heaven, ſo there is no *Nation*, that can boaſt of ſuch a KING, as ours! A KING Raiſed by Heaven, to ſave *Three Kingdoms* from the *Chains* of *Popery* and *Slavery* that were *Treacherouſly* prepared for them, and break thoſe that were apace putting upon all *Europe* alſo: A KING us'd by Heaven, to put an Hook in the *Noſtrils* of a *Leviathan*, and make him diſgorge at the Peace of *Ryſwick*, Cities and Countreys, which contain as much in Bigneſs, as all the Kingdom of *England*: A KING, whoſe *Royal Aſſent* unto ſundry *Acts of Parliament*, has advanc'd the *Engliſh Nation*, unto *Priviledges*, richly worth all the millions of Money, that have been ſpent ſince the *Revolution*; and the *Scotch Nation* is likewiſe Reſtored unto its Deſired Fælicity. As *New England*, was the Earlieſt of all the *Plantations* in Declaring for this Illuſtrious PRINCE, thus from *New England* alſo there go up as Lively Ac-

Acclamations, as from any whatsoever, *Long, Long may we have such a* KING *to Reign over us!*

When the KING, Resolving to *Favour* us, with a most Exact *Image* of His own *Royal Vertues*, in a GOVERNOUR, gave His Commission unto the truly Noble Earl of BELLOMONT for the *Government* of these Plantations, we were from almost every Quarter told, That the Nobility of *Three Kingdoms* could not have afforded a person more charmingly Agreeable: But since His Excellency's Happy Arrival, we now find, *That the One half was never told us.* You will pardon me, *My Lord*, if I [illegible] Bless God, and Thank the King, for Your EXCELLENCY, when I am reckoning up the Things, wher[illegible] are-[illegible]*ult withal, as not any* Na[illegible] do [illegible]get that I am standing in a [illegible]e, very near Heaven, in which, more than in any und[illegible]ave would be offensive to [illegible]ake I do Believe, our GOV[illegible]OUR Himself, hath so much of the Great *Constantine* in him, that I could not more *Offend* Him, than by going to *Flatter* him.

Never;

Nevertheless, I Judge, it would be no less than a *Sinful Omission* in me, if I should not reckon our GOVERNOUR, among the *Matchless Favours* of our God unto us. I am not *Praising* of Him; for in the Language of a *Divine*, I must call to mind, that he is *Nothing*, but what GOD makes him to be: But I am urging you, to the *Praising* of GOD for Him. Yea I will say [*And I wish I could so speak it, that all* New England *might Hear it!*] That as we made our GOVERNOUR, a Great Article of our *Prayers* to GOD, before we Received Him, So, now we [illegible] our *Prayers* thus [illegible] if we don't make him an Article of our *Praises* to GOD, not only in publick, but also in private, [illegible] where throughout the Lan[illegible] we de[illegible] the Disaster which the [illegible]ies of the *Kings* [illegible]ests desire to [illegible] falling us [illegible] that is to say, to be Deprived [illegible] Ble[illegible] But I am the more [illegible] from [illegible]ting on this *Matchless favour* of G[illegible] to us; because I perceive, our peo[illegible] Generally have some affectionate Resentme[illegible] of it. It was of old said, Psal. 144. 14, 15. *Let there be*

no

no Complaining in our Streets; Happy is t[illegible] people that is in such a case. Now, tho' [illegible] must freely own it, That no people has been more prone to *Complain* than we, yet I have heard persons that converse among all sorts of people, say, *That they never yet could see the man, who uttered, or muttered, the least Complaint against His EXCELLENCY'S Government.* Say, O *New England*; Has the Lord *so dealt with* [illegible] *Nation*? [illegible], that *Com-* [illegible] are those worn [illegible] mies of all [illegible]

[illegible]

Sha[illegible]e p[illegible]

acious, and Fatherly *Compassion*, upon
r Weaknesses? To Improve his Inte-
rest in the Court of *England*, so that *His*
Great Friends, may for his sake be *ours*?
To *Defend* us from Injuries, to *Direct* us
in Difficulties, to Countenance our just
Liberties, and the best Friends of them?

EXCELLENT SIR, You *prevent* us,
in all our Petitions: You *Do* for us,
whatever we would *Ask* for: You leave
us, nothing [illegible] how we
may [illegible]
Qu[illegible]